

**Department of Veterans Affairs
SOUTHERN OREGON REHABILITATION CENTER & CLINICS
8495 Crater Lake Hwy.
White City, OR 97503**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(FONSI)**

BACKGROUND

The Veteran's Administration Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center & Clinics (SORCC), proposes improvements to the campus, located in Jackson County, Oregon. In response to recent federal initiatives, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is considering alternatives for reducing the intensity of fossil fuel use at its facilities. In accordance with these initiatives, the VA proposes to install and operate ethanol-85 (E85) fueling stations at many of its VA medical centers (VAMCs). The VAMCs have most of the flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) that are used by VA personnel such as ambulances, cars, trucks and buses. The purpose of installing E85 fuel tanks at VAMC campuses is to support the existing VHA FFV fleets that are currently underutilized owing to lack of E85 availability, and to reduce the number of DOE waivers that are currently needed by the VA to comply with Section 701 [42 U.S.C. 6374(a)(3)(E)] of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requiring federal fleets to replace petroleum use with alternative fuels. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared and advertised for the purposes of soliciting public input. The EA is provided here as part of this combined EA/FONSI.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action, up to a 5,000 gallon E85 AST alternative fueling station would be constructed and operated at the White City VAMC facility located in White City, Oregon. The facility has 600 residential rehabilitation beds and a primary care and mental health outpatient department. The proposed location for the E85 fueling station is at the periphery of campus near the existing fueling area across the road from Building 243. Improvements of infrastructure would not be required to accommodate access for vehicles or fuel delivery trucks. The estimated footprint of the AST, including a concrete pad and sufficient access to the tank, would be approximately 225 square feet (SF) maximum, assuming that a light-weight, double-walled tank is installed. The proximity to existing electrical power, required safety setbacks from buildings and property lines, and the VA Antiterrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) requirements were considered during the site-selection process. Preference was given to locating the E85 fueling station near the existing unleaded fuel tank.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COMMENTS RECEIVED


A Draft Environmental Assessment was prepared and advertised for public comment on 27 March 2012, in accordance with the VA NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects. The public was invited to comment on the Draft EA through a notice of availability published in the local newspaper, The Mail Tribune. The notice was published for 3 days, 30 March, 6 April, and 13 April, 2012. The public comment period lasted for 30 days and ended on 1 May 2012. The VA received no comments from the public or from interested agencies regarding the project. The revised Final EA is attached as part of this combined FONSI/EA.

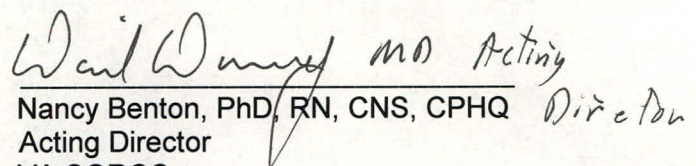
DETERMINATION AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

This FONSI is based on the attached Final Environmental Assessment. The analysis performed in the EA concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action as described would not have significant unavoidable adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Accordingly, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Action is not required.

The location of the proposed E85 AST is as shown below.




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